

Message Text

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ACTION SS-30

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 /031 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NEWYORK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 686

INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 1 OF 2 USUN 4376

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR UN KN KS

SUBJ: KOREA IN 28TH GA: CHANGE IN TACTICS

REF: (A) USUN 4322, (B) SEOUL 7291

SUMMARY: ROK AMB PARK CALLED ON AMB BENNETT OCT 31
TO URGE WE CONSIDER POSSIBILITY OF COMPROMISE FORMULA THAT
WOULD GAIN BROAD SUPPORT IN FIRST COMMITTEE. PARK PREFERS
NEGOTIATED "MERGER" OF TWO RESOLUTIONS AS BEST SOLUTION:
HE RECOMMENDS WE TAKE STEPS VERY SOON TO PROBE DPRK SIDE
ON POSSIBILITY OF WORKING OUT THIS SORT OF COMPROMISE.
IF OTHER SIDE NOT RESPONSIVE, THEN AMENDMENT OF HOSTILE
RESOLUTION WOULD BE FALLBACK TACTIC. PARK FEELS FINAL DECISION
ON TACTICS -- DECISION THAT WOULD BE BASED PARTLY ON REACTION
TO OUR PROBES ON MERGER -- MUST BE MADE WITHIN
TEN DAYS. PARK SAID HIS APPROACH TO BENNETT UNINSTRUCTED,
BUT HE NOW REPORTING FULLY TO SEOUL AND ANTICIPATES
ROKG WILL BE RECEPTIVE. END SUMMARY.

1. ROK AMB PARK CALLED ON AMB BENNETT MID-DAY OCT 31
TO DISCUSS CURRENT SITUATION ON KOREAN ITEM AND TACTICS
FOR FIRST COMMITTEE. NOTING THAT WE NOW HAVE ABOUT TWO
WEEKS TO GO BEFORE FIRST COMMITTEE DEBATE BEGINS, HE
SAID ROK CONTINUING BEST EFFORTS TO GAIN SUPPORT FOR
FRIENDLY RESOLUTION AND OPPOSITION TO HOSTILE RESOLUTION,
BUT, HE STRESSED, POSSIBILITY OF ALGERIAN RESOLUTION BEING
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VOTED ON FIRST IN THESE CIRCUMSTANCES HAS LED HIM TO
RETHINK TACTICS.

2. HE RECALLED THAT IN COURSE OF CONTACTS WITH UN

MEMBERS, ESPECIALLY NONALIGNED, HE HAD COME TO BELIEVE THAT IF THERE WOULD BE THIRD DRAFT RESOLUTION REPRESENTING COMPROMISE THEN MANY NON-ALIGNED WOULD BE ABLE TO TAKE MORE "POSITIVE ATTITUDE." HE CITED EXAMPLE OF KENYA PERM REP, WITH WHOM HE HAD JUST MET, WHO SAID KENYA WAS NOT IN FAVOR OF EITHER RESOLUTION BUT THAT KENYA COULD LOOK WITH FAVOR ON THIRD DRAFT. PARK SAID HIS MISSION NOW CALCULATES THERE WERE SOME 30 COUNTRIES THAT HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY "DON'T WANT TO BE CAUGHT IN BETWEEN" TWO RESOLUTIONS.

3. FOREGOING WERE PRACTICAL REASONS, PARK TOLD BENNETT, THAT HAVE CONTRIBUTED TO HIS BELIEF THAT WE SHOULD GIVE "SERIOUS THOUGHT TO NEW APPROACH TO FINDING COMPROMISE FORMULA." HE SAID THAT, IN ADDITION TO REASONS ALREADY CITED, THIS WOULD PREVENT "OPEN DISPUTE BETWEEN NORTH AND SOUTH KOREA" IN FIRST COMMITTEE. IF ROK HAS "SERIOUS CONFRONTATION" WITH NORTH KOREA AT THIS GA, THIS WOULD "ADVERSELY AFFECT FUTURE OF DIALOGUE." FROM THAT VIEWPOINT, THEREFORE, PARK FAVORS "RELATIVELY QUIET APPROACH" IN FIRST COMITE AS "MORE USEFUL."

4. PARK URGED THAT CHANGE IN TACTICS SHOULD BE SERIOUSLY DISCUSSED NOW BECAUSE NECESSARY ARRANGEMENTS FOR SUCCESSFUL FIRST COMITE EFFORT MUST BE CONCLUDED WITHIN ABOUT TEN DAYS. IF WE AND ALLIES CANNOT BE CONFIDENT OF MORE THAN TEN VOTES MARGIN AGAINST HOSTILE RES (AND WE CANNOT EXPECT THIS), THEN WE CANNOT BE CERTAIN OF WINNING, AND THUS CHANGE IN TACTICS MUST BE DECIDED UPON. PRIORITY PROBLEM FIGURED HEAVILY IN PARK'S THINKING.

5. PARK SAID HE WISHED AT THIS POINT TO HAVE BENNETT UNDERSTAND THAT HE WAS OFFERING HIS PERSONAL VIEWS WITHOUT INSTRUCTIONS. PARK SAID IF US AND OTHER SUPPORTERS HERE BELIEVE THAT NEW APPROACH WOULD IMPROVE ROK PROSPECTS FOR SUCCESSFUL OUTCOME IN GA, THEN HE WOULD HAVE NO PROBLEM IN RECOMMENDING THIS TO ROKG. HE SAID HE WOULD IN ANY CONFIDENTIAL

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EVENT NOW BE REPORTING FULLY HIS CONVERSATION WITH BENNETT. BENNETT ASSURED PARK HE WOULD ALSO REPORT. BENNETT ASKED PARK IF HE HAD GIVEN THOUGHT TO PARTICULAR LANGUAGE CHANGES AND OTHER MODALITIES. PARK SAID HE FELT THAT "IDEAL" WOULD BE TO INITIATE BEHIND-SCENES CONTACT WITH OTHER SIDE FOR PURPOSE OF "MERGER" OF TWO RESOLUTIONS. IF THIS PROVED POSSIBLE, PARK ASSUMED EACH SIDE COULD WITHDRAW ITS RESOLUTION AND FIRST COMITE DEBATE COULD PROCEED "QUIETLY AND SATISFACTORILY ON BOTH SIDES."

6. IF OTHER SIDE COULD NOT ACCEPT MERGER, PARK CONTINUED, AND OTHER SIDE INSISTED ON VOTE, THEN "SECOND BEST" ALTERNATIVE WOULD BE TO PLAN TO PROPOSE AMENDMENTS TO

HOSTILE RES SINCE IN THAT WAY OUR AMENDMENTS WOULD BE VOTED UPON BEFORE RES ITSELF.

7. IF WE DECIDE IN FURTHER CONSULTATIONS THAT SUCH AN APPROACH DESIRABLE, PARK TOLD BENNETT, THEN WE MUST PROCEED QUIETLY AND CAREFULLY, PERHAPS ASKING A THIRD COUNTRY TO INITIATE PROBE. PARK SAID, AS EXAMPLE OF "THIRD PARTY" THAT NORWEGIAN AMB HAD RECENTLY SHOWN INTEREST IN POSSIBILITY OF CO-SPONSORING FRIENDLY RES THAT DID NOT HAVE PARA ON DUAL MEMBERSHIP. BENNETT ASKED PARK IF HE WOULD BE WILLING TO DROP MEMBERSHIP PARA. PARK UNHESITATINGLY CONFIRMED THIS, ADDING THAT IN ROK VIEW MEMBERSHIP ISSUE WAS QUITE SECONDARY TO "SECURITY PROBLEM." RE UNC, PARK RECALLED THAT WHEN WORKING GROUP DRAFTED FRIENDLY RES "CERTAIN PHRASES" (SEE USUN 3001 OF AUG 27) HAD BEEN RESERVED FOR POSSIBLE ADDITION IN CASE VOTING SITUATION INDICATED SUCH ADDITION WOULD BE USEFUL. PARK SUGGESTED WE COULD "REVIVE" THIS LANGUAGE AND "REVISE" THAT PARA. IN ANY CASE, HE SAID, MATTER WOULD BE REFERRED TO SC FOR ACTION "IN DUE COURSE" AND ROK INTEREST WOULD BE PROTECTED.

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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 2 OF 2 USUN 4376

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8. BENNETT ASKED PARK HOW HE WOULD PROPOSE HANDLING HOSTILE RES THIRD OP PARA ON FOREIGN TROOPS. PARK REPLIED THAT WHEN POSSIBILITY OF MERGER DISCUSSED WITH DPRK SUPPORTERS, WE COULD PROPOSE THAT WE "SACRIFICE DUAL MEMBERSHIP" IN RETURN FOR THEIR SACRIFICE OF REFERENCE TO FOREIGN TROOPS. WE COULD THEN WORK OUT WORDING ON UNC. PARK STRESSED THAT WHILE ROKG IS "OPEN-MINDED" ABOUT OTHER ASPECTS, IT ATTACHES PRIME IMPORTANCE TO QUESTION OF SECURITY. WHATEVER IS WORKED OUT ON CHANGING RESOLUTIONS, PARK EMPHASIZED, "MAIN THING IT TO PREVENT UNEXPECTED DIFFICULTY IN FIRST COMITE."

9. BENNETT TOLD PARK THAT WE HAD BEEN THINKING ALONG LINES BASED ON SIMILAR UNDERSTANDING OF SITUATION. HE ASKED

PARK HOW HE WOULD SUGGEST PROCEEDING. PARK RESPONDED THAT WE SHOULD FIRST DISCUSS WITH KEY ALLIES; IF SMALL GROUP (PRESUMABLY SIX-COUNTRY KOREA WORKING GROUP) COULD AGREE UPON FORMULA FOR MERGING OF TWO DRAFTS, THEN WE COULD APPROACH OTHER SIDE. IN THIS CONNECTION, PARK NOTED THAT SENIOR UK FCO OFFICIAL WILFORD ON OCT 22 HAD EXPRESSED INTEREST TO ROK REP IN LONDON IN FINDING A "THIRD FORMULA" BY WHICH TWO RESOLUTIONS MIGHT BE "AMALGAMATED." WILFORD INDICATED HE AWAITING REPORT ON THIS POSSIBILITY FROM UK MISSION HERE.

10. AT END OF DISCUSSION, PARK AGAIN REVERTED TO DESIRABILITY, FROM VIEWPOINT OF NORTH-SOUTH RELATIONS, CONFIDENTIAL

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OF "QUIET" FIRST COMITE DEBATE. "WE DO NOT WANT TO FIGHT IN FRONT OF ALL UN DELEGATES," PARK SAID.

11. NOTE: PARK DID NOT MAKE ANY REFERENCE IN THIS CONVERSATION TO DIRECT US APPROACH TO PRC, MERELY REMARKING THAT PRC MIGHT WELCOME COMPROMISE PROPOSAL.
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